

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 21 of 1876.]

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 20th May 1876.

THE *Sáptáhik Samáchar*, of the 9th May, thus writes on the subject of a "Rent rate" for Bengal. Ever since the close of Lord Cornwallis's administration, our rulers have always shewn a sort of indifference to the rights of landlords and tenants. From our residence in this country, and a knowledge of its condition, we have come to the conclusion that at present, these rights are not properly defined. Disputes frequently occur between landlords and tenants. The former harass their tenantry by continuous litigation whenever the latter combine and refuse to pay the rents; though such a proceeding ruins them and entails expense on the zemindar. The Government revenue, however, cannot remain unpaid. The zemindar must pay it anyhow. Those that are surprised at the out-break of tenantry-riots in Pubna and Dacca, would probably cease to be so, had they but known the true state of the matter as it has been all over the country at all times. It is not unlikely that disputes should break out where the rights of the parties are not clearly defined. There can be no doubt that this unsatisfactory state of things has been brought about by the imperfections of the rent law. First, the ryots enjoy no rights so defined as those conferred on the zemindars of Bengal by the permanent settlement of Lord Cornwallis. Secondly, there is no rate of rent fixed for land of any given description. Thirdly, no system is laid down according to which the rents are to be collected from the tenantry. All these facts go to account for the absence of good-feeling between the landlords and tenants at the present time. Act X of 1859 was indeed enacted by a number of learned and experienced statesmen, but it has failed to produce the desired effect.

SAPTARIK SAMACHAR,
May 9th, 1876.

The British Administrators and Legislators have no doubt done, and are still doing, much for us, but none of them appears to have paid sufficient attention to the subject of land, which is as it were the life of the people. Some have manifested a most laudable (!) indifference to it; while in their endeavours to do something in the matter, others have made a confusion. A third party advocate vigorous measures for striking a deadly blow at the permanent settlement with the zemindars; and there is yet another party, whose hearts melt with grief, at one moment, for the misery of the poor ryot, but in the next get more hardened than ever. Thanks to Sir Richard Temple, who is laboring to remove this discontent. We have read His Honor's minutes on the subject of the rent law, with great interest and respect. We give him credit for the arguments he has adduced for and against the schemes for the enhancement of rent. We, however, differ from him in holding that it will be easy to determine the rent rate from the period of occupancy. In most cases, when

the landlord is determined on an enhancement, and the tenant equally persistent in refusing it, neither party, we are afraid, will feel any hesitation to resort to unfair means, if necessary, in their attempts to prove occupancy. It is to be feared that there will only be an increase of litigation in this way. We would, therefore, think it advisable that Government should lay down one uniform rate for all tenants, who may become entitled to the right of occupancy, except those who possess it by virtue of their *mokururee* rights. This rate, of course, will be different for different districts; but that is a matter which will cause less anxiety to the public. To determine the rent which should be due to the zemindar, the average price of the produce per beegha of land in any district for the last five, or at least three, years should first be ascertained; and then a sixth or a fifth portion of this should be allotted to the zemindar. Such a scheme, if carried out, will afford very little scope for disputes, while it will not affect at all such questions as the efforts of the ryot or the zemindar, or an increase in the productive powers of the soil, or in the price of its produce. Those that are for assigning a fourth part of the produce to the landlord have, in our opinion, advanced too far and pay less regard to the present position of the Bengali ryot.

One is sorry to note the attitude generally assumed by some in all discussions of this subject. Some of these are deadly opposed to the zemindars, while others show a persistent zeal in characterizing the tenants as a refractory class. Some, again, see nothing but justice in all the doings of the zemindar, while a few pride themselves on their advocacy of the interests of the tenantry; making the latter appear in the light of a number of innocent lambs. For our part, we do not lay claim to any blind partiality or hostility towards either party. The class of landlords we regard as an ornament of the country, and as such, do not wish for a reduction of their power. The tenantry again, the cultivators of the soil, supply the means of subsistence to the people, and their ruin is never to be desired. An equitable adjustment of their rights alone is desirable. A jester once remarked that, in this country, the man who is loud in denouncing the oppressions of the zemindars, and whose heart melts at the miseries of the ryots, is generally he who does not hold any land. But should this landless philanthropist ever come to have any landed possessions, in him the zemindars find a friend, and the tenants an oppressor.

SUHRID.
May 9th, 1876.

2. The *Suhrid*, of the 9th May, writes the following in connection with the Muktagachá Municipality. We have all along noticed the complaint, that municipalities, in almost all places, have proved only an engine of oppression to the poor; and the new municipality of Muktagachá does not seem to be an exception. The inhabitants of some of the villages included under its jurisdiction are mostly poor agriculturists and petty traders; and though we have not anything serious to urge against an assessment on them, still it grieves us sorely to notice the way in which they are dealt with by the municipality. Already the high rates of rent levied by the zemindars leave them but the bare means of livelihood; and now, from the system of collecting the municipal tax, they are by degrees deprived of their household utensils also. It is not in the power of every one of them to pay at once the taxes which are collected every quarter; and consequently their poor huts and broken utensils are subjected to attachment and sale. Thus, too, they are made to pay about twice the amount due from them as tax. We have heard that the property of the owner of a house was once attached by the municipal officers; his tenant, from whom taxes were due, having absconded. There

is no redress to be obtained from the Panchayet. They generally refer the matter to the Magistrate, who only disappoints them all the more. This is oppression; but no adequate benefit is derived from it. The people have no hopes of seeing the roads, ghats, or tanks in good order. At night the visits of constables are few and far between. At intervals of a fortnight or even a month, some may be found uttering their parol only during the earlier hours of a moon-light night, while there is no knowing where they go for the remaining hours. Whatever benefit may arise from local municipalities, it is all enjoyed by the zemindars and their *protégés*. They manage to expend the funds on works which it is their duty to construct at their own expense. They are certainly under an obligation to pay the costs of the Muktagachá school and dispensary. But while the latter has yet had no existence, the former is maintained from the Municipal Funds. All the benefits arising from Municipal roads, ghats, and sweepers, &c., are theirs. So that it is not at all to be wondered at that they should be found so partial to the system. It is, however, only proper that the three villages, included in this municipality, of which the poor inhabitants are oppressed rather than benefited from the present arrangement, should either be excluded from the corporation, or, in order to convince them of the beneficial character of the Municipal system, be allowed to enjoy some benefits.

3. The same paper has the following under the heading of "Our Sessions Judge." Our new Sessions Judge has been amusing us with his freaks. One, in his high position, is the most proper person to redress all injustice and oppression, which may be practised by other district officers; and the justice of the High Court should be reflected in his decisions. But the speeches and acts of our new Judge have dissipated all such hopes. Nothing of importance has been done by him since he came here; he is only busy with superficial and showy work. While he is very strict regarding the attendance of witnesses and others, no care is taken to secure a proper service of the summons; and witnesses are insulted without any consideration of their social position. And not only this, some exceedingly capricious orders of this judge are now being talked about. He has prohibited the firing of guns in the town (Mymensingh), because his wife cannot bear to hear the report. We are filled with uneasiness at seeing such a person occupy the Judge's seat.

SUREID.
May 9th, 1876.

4. The same paper makes the following comments in connection with the Dramatic Performances' Bill. The representation of certain plays, on the stage of the Great National Theatre, relative to the Commissioner of the Calcutta Police, was only meant as an *exposé* of certain acts of Sir Stuart Hogg; and we do not see how far Government was justified in regarding such a representation as seditious. Taking, moreover, into consideration the signal loyalty manifested to the British Crown on the occasion of the visit of the Prince of Wales, it certainly seems strange that Government should have considered it desirable to enact a stringent law against sedition to coerce this intensely loyal people. In the face of the fact, that even the females of a Hindu Zenana were allowed to see the Prince, an act which two hundred years ago no Hindu would consent to, there is no need for the enactment of a new law; which is the more needless as the sections in the Indian Penal Code, bearing on the subject of sedition and libel, are quite sufficient for the purpose. Should this measure become law, Government would not in the least be benefited by it, and its only effect would be to put an entire restraint on our diversions, which it is not prudent for a

SUREID.

Government to interfere with. Lord Northbrook was doubtless led to commit this error by the advice of some self-interested officers.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
May 11th, 1878.

5. We extract the following passage from an article in the *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, of the 11th May, on the desirableness of a political unity. Referring to the warm debates in Parliament, on the subject of the Queen's new title, the Editor remarks:—These debates teach us at least one important lesson. The party spirit which governs British politics might, with a little effort on our part, be turned to our advantage. Mr. Marshman has remarked, in his history of Bengal, that if the Hindus had been sagacious enough to take advantage of the internal discords between their Mahomedan rulers, they would doubtless have been enabled to promote their interests in a remarkable manner.

We may suppose the people of France, Germany, and Russia repeating the same remark at the present moment; if the Hindus were clever, they would avail themselves of these party strifes, to raise their nation in the political world. For, however skilled the English may be in playing the game of politics, they cannot but occasionally commit slips; and if we could only take advantage of these, we might gradually make an advance. But in order to be able to do so, we should first endeavour to obtain some influence in England, or at least to form the acquaintance of influential men there.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

6. The same paper remarks, in the course of another article, that the British Government has, for a long time past, cherished the desire that the Sovereign of England should in India enjoy the prestige and honors which, under the Mahomedan rulers, appertained to the Emperor of Delhi. They have persistently sought to gratify this desire for the last 150 years, and perhaps the visit of the Prince of Wales to India was determined on to attain this object. It was for this purpose that Lord Northbrook was so anxious to secure the attendance of all the independent Native Princes at the Durbar; and it was doubtless for this reason also that Mr. Disraeli proposed the title of "Empress of India" for Her Majesty.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

7. The same paper remarks in another place:—The terrible severity of the Criminal Procedure in this country will be clearly apparent to Lord Lytton, if he be really a tender-hearted man. He will perceive how many hundreds of innocent persons suffer cruel punishment under the existing system, and how often the extreme penalty of the law is unjustly inflicted. If he would only enquire whether the Code of Criminal Procedure has proved beneficial or injurious to the country, and would read the reports published by Government on this subject, he could not fail to see how often the highest ruler in the land should look into these things, and notice the amount of injustice done for want of such supervision.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

8. Adverting to the various surmises that are made by the public, with reference to the presence of Sir Richard Temple in Behar at this trying season, the same paper has the following:—It is thought by many that His Honor has undertaken this tour with a view to ascertain, by local enquiry, the truth of the allegations supposed to have been made by Mr. Geddes, against the indigo-planters of Behar, and the condition of the people of that province, in his report on the Durbhunga estates. Sir Richard indeed secretly makes enquiries in many matters, and secretly too seeks to redress wrongs which may thus come to his notice. The indigo-planters are his old friends. Soon after his coming to this country, he acquired some degree of fame by his enquiries into their oppressions; and he quite understands what the planters are and the way they should be dealt with. It is

just possible that after satisfying himself, by his private enquiries of the condition of the people, he will warn the *Kutheals* against such conduct towards the tenantry. He would save thousands of families from starvation, if he could free the miserable inhabitants of Behar from the oppressions of the indigo-planters. Should the tenantry be extirpated by means of these oppressions, it is Government that will suffer in the long run. And if the late famine was really brought about by such oppressions, it would be no exaggeration to say, that Government has expended a sum of seven crores of rupees for the benefit of a few British traders. Government should, therefore, if for no other consideration, at least for its own sake, enquire into the doings of the indigo-planters of Behar.

9. A correspondent of the same paper complains that by raising, under the new Majority Act, the age of majority from 18 to 21 years in the case of minors under the Court of Wards, Government has done an act of injustice to native society. Their interference in this matter has been totally uncalled for. The new measure will produce one serious evil. Persons of the wealthier classes in this country do not, on an average, live for more than 41 or 42 years; and it is therefore highly probable that under the new law, there will hardly be an end of the period of minority. The management of a minor's estates will devolve repeatedly on Government, an arrangement which will cause nothing but ruin to the land-owning classes. We fear that the permanently settled estates of the zemindars are too much for Government, which cannot govern its cupidity. If, what we say, be right, there may be an end to all disputes by Government taking possession of these zemindaries in its own name. What is the good of this protracted torture? The education of the wards is sadly neglected. They learn neither English nor Bengali. The mode of instruction is extremely unsatisfactory. In the absence of any moral instruction, they contract immoral habits. They are subjected to a rigorous discipline, which will now be the more intolerable, from the extension of the period of tutelage. The only consequence of this will be to make the wards, when they shall have attained their twenty-first year, dull, depressed in spirits, and fond of sensual pleasures. There is no notice taken of the way in which the monthly allowance of every ward is expended. This is wrong. While on this subject, it may be observed that Sir George Campbell's Resolution, regarding the mode in which the surplus funds of wards' estates are to be expended, is as absurd as possible. How did he arrive at the conclusion that a man becomes dissipated only when he has a large sum of money in his own hands? It is hoped that Sir Richard Temple will attend to these things, and save the wards from the dangers with which they are threatened.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
May 11th, 1876.

10. In continuation of an article, noticed in paragraph 2 of our last report, the *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 10th May 1876, remarks that our Government reposes unbounded confidence in their civil servants. They are appointed to all important posts, on the belief that they are able to do any work, which may be entrusted to them. It is not unusual for a man who is the Superintendent of Stationery to-day, to be appointed as a District Judge to-morrow. Every body knows that a District Judge is required to perform two important functions, the administration of civil justice, and the trial of Sessions cases. It may be easy for Magistrates, or even Joint-Magistrates, who are generally appointed as District Judges, to do the duty of a Sessions Judge satisfactorily; but the duties of a Civil Court are not so easily performed. Hence it is desirable that while the former should be entrusted with Sessions duties, Civil Court duties should be placed in the hands of

HINDU RANJIKA,
May 10th, 1876.

competent men, selected from the list of Subordinate Judges, or from among the pleaders of the High Court. Government cannot deny the fact that natives are fully competent to conduct the administration of justice. Sufficient proofs of this start up everywhere. The great expense, attending the adoption of the system now proposed, may be an objection to it. But the difficulty may be easily removed, if the duties of the Sessions Court be entrusted to the Commissioner of the Division, by whom also they may be advantageously discharged. Many will remember the fact that at one time the Commissioner had to do these duties. Hence the proposition is not new, nor is there anything to be feared by its adoption.

HINDU RANJIKA,
May 10th, 1876.

11. In another article, the same paper draws the attention of Government to the fact, that the title *Rání*, which has been conferred on Sharat Sundarí Deví, of Putiá, for her virtues and manifold good deeds, is not adequate to her merits. Moreover, the title is not new to her. She enjoyed it before. Government is, therefore, asked to confer on her the title of *Maharání*, which will be a fitting reward of her merits.

HINDU RANJIKA.

12. A correspondent of the same paper writes the following:—Where the occupancy, as well as the non-occupancy, ryots pay their rents at the same rate, there, according to the Act for the prevention of Agrarian Disputes, the rent of the former should be reduced by a certain percentage below the latter. But this rule, when put into practice, will be highly injurious to the zemindars and talookdars, and entail upon them great loss; because the number of the occupancy ryots in every village is gradually increasing. And, where there is no difference of rent, this rule will furnish the occupancy ryots with a ground for demanding a reduction, and the non-occupancy ryots, who constitute the minority, will through fear be induced to join the majority. Hence, if instead of the above mode of settlement a portion of the produce were assigned as rent, it would be found a much easier way for the determination of the rates. The way indicated in the new Rent Bill is not likely to be beneficial. Act VIII of 1869 ought to have been confirmed, and there would be no complaints if a rule were made for giving speedy, but careful, decisions. Formerly such cases were tried by the Collectors; now they have come into the hands of the Moonsiffs. The cause of this transfer should form the subject of serious consideration. No party is satisfied with a decision that depends solely upon a report that may be made, and that is not arrived at after a regular trial. Besides, in appeals counsel should be allowed. There is provision made in the Act whereby a suit may be brought against a number of tenants in the same village; but no provision is made for appeals, unless the demand be for more than a hundred rupees. This provision is not very clear, as there is no mention made in the Bill as to whether, in the appeal, the aggregate value of the suits, or the rent paid by each individual ryot, should be taken into consideration. Again, no good result can be derived from obtaining a decree against refractory tenants, unless provision be made for the punishment of those, who should produce a false statement of their property before the court. Besides, the property of such ryots is of very little value, and that even no one ventures to purchase; while those that belong to their own party are not naturally willing to do so. Therefore, the decree produces no effect, and the only consequence of these accumulated arrears of rent is, that the zemindar becomes involved in debt, and his estates are put up to public sale from his inability to pay the Government revenue.

BHARAT MIHIR,
May 11th, 1876.

13. The *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 11th May, notices a rumour that, under the instruction of the British Resident at Baroda, all the guns of the

Guicowar, except those made of gold and silver, have been destroyed. We cannot understand the meaning of such an order; but it may be easily perceived, that it is by such acts only, that the seed of distrust in the British Government is sown in the minds of the Native Princes. It is, however, strange that Government does not see this. It can nevertheless easily perceive how improper it is to deal harshly with the Princes from whom, in the year 1858, it obtained so much help. It is unjust to distrust those who did not betray their trust at a time when the Government was involved in great danger. The Government ought to keep in mind the fact that until it places confidence in us, it cannot expect to win our regard and true loyalty.

14. Adverting to the propriety of appointing the Judges of the High Court as Members of the Legislative Council, the same paper remarks that nobody can deny that men, whose duty it is to interpret the laws and to apply them, are from that circumstance the more competent to amend or even to frame them. But it is strange they are not made Members of the Legislative Council. We do not see that this could be due to any other cause than a fear that they would stand on the side of natives in the Council. This narrow-minded policy, which bars the admission of the Judges into the said Council, is not at all consistent with the liberal views of Government.

BHARAT MIHIR,
May 11th, 1876.

15. Dwelling on the government of the various territories and dependencies of Britain, the same paper makes the following observations:—The happiness and prosperity of India are far inferior to those of other British territories. The system of government is not the same in all dependencies. Some enjoy greater prosperity and freedom from control, while others stand on the same level with India, in perfect subjection and slavery. A separate and independent system of government has been introduced into Australia. Here the inhabitants themselves frame laws, and carry on the administration of justice by appointing men of their own body to the judicial posts. Even the Islands of St. Helena and Ceylon, though subject to the British rule, enjoy a greater measure of independence than India. Ceylon, like India, has Executive and Legislative Councils, but the Home Government exercises no influence upon them. Even the Queen has no power, except that of putting a veto upon any laws framed by them. Here the Government officials are only subject to the Home Government. Since Ceylon and such other uncivilized territories are permitted to enjoy an independent system of Government, why should India be allowed to remain in so abject a condition?

BHARAT MIHIR.

16. The same paper makes the following reflections on the administration of Sir Richard Temple:—Sir Richard is using every endeavour to do good to Bengal, whatever may be the motive by which he is actuated, whether, as some say, that he may win popularity, or otherwise. We, however, reap the benefit of his endeavours. He has already done, and is doing, much for Calcutta, and has given his valuable aid to the Science Association of Dr. Mahendra Lál Sarkár, to the Indian League, and to many such institutions. He is not indifferent to the welfare of the University students. He invited them to his palace at Belvedere on the night of the Convocation day, and thus encouraged them greatly. He is endeavouring, with head and heart, to make the two races—the conquerors and the conquered—one people. He invites men of all communities to his pleasure boat, the *Rhotas*. No such congregation of people, of various ranks and professions, has ever met together thus before. He has succeeded, by this

BHARAT MIHIR.

means, in creating a friendship between learned men of different races. He has promised two lakhs of rupees for the encouragement of the Arts' School. Every week the *Calcutta Gazette* tells us of some of His Honor's good deeds. We rejoice especially in the care and attention which he has bestowed on the subject of female education. The asylum for the blind and other incurables, which is now building in Calcutta, will stand a lasting monument of his noble and generous acts. But though Sir Richard has travelled into almost all the provinces of Bengal, and has seen them with his own eyes, his attention has not yet been drawn to places lying at a little distance out of Calcutta. We cannot say in what light he views the mofussil Native Papers; but we are sure that we do not see any endeavours on his part to redress the grievances noticed in them. Lord Northbrook has done great injury to the people in the mofussil, by discontinuing the circulation of the weekly report on Native Papers. If Sir Richard be a true well-wisher of Bengal, and if he wishes to remove the grievances of the people, he will certainly look with favor on these papers.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
May 12th, 1876.

17. The *Education Gazette*, of the 12th May, thus writes in the course of an article on the "Future prospects of India":—Englishmen, while in England, look upon us, as it were, with eyes different from those with which they regard us in India. We generally find evidences of a liberal heart in the former. But we are so ill-fated, that with most of these Englishmen, as soon as they touch the soil of India, their power of vision undergoes a change. This only shows that our sufferings have not yet ended.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
May 13th, 1876.

18. The *Grámbártá Prákashiká*, of the 13th May, remarks, in reference to the Mofussil Municipalities' Bill, that it has been passed by the local Legislature in utter defiance of the opinions of those whose interests are at stake. Foiled in his attempt to disregard the public opinion of the metropolis in the matter of the Calcutta Municipal Bill, the Lieutenant-Governor turns his hands on the weak and inoffensive population of the mofussil, and has passed, with but slight variations, the Municipal Bill of Sir George Campbell, which created a profound sensation in the country at the time of its introduction into the Legislative Council.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA.

19. The same paper notices the extreme inconvenience, suffered by the people in the interior, from a lack of water-supply in this hot season. Almost all the tanks and rivers are dried up, and the heat has engendered cholera and other pestilential diseases. It is indeed sad to think, that while the zemindars are themselves indifferent to the sufferings of their tenantry in this respect, they prevent the excavation of tanks in their estates by demanding exorbitant prices for land, which may be selected for the purpose by the villagers.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA.

20. Writing on the subject of the Lieutenant-Governor's Minute on the Rent Law, the same paper gives the following as his own opinion:—We have repeatedly said that disputes between landlords and tenants would never cease to exist, nor would any improvement be made in land, until a permanent settlement be determined on between the two parties. The truth of this remark will be best perceived, by comparing the condition of the ryots of a permanently settled estate with that of an estate enjoying a temporary settlement. There are but few instances, we think, of zemindars improving the land at their own expense and efforts. A permanent settlement between landlords and tenants is the most beneficial arrangement that could be thought of.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA.

21. In a letter communicated to the same paper, under the heading of "True News," and purporting to have been written by the peasantry of

certain villages in the district of Nuddea, the writers complain of the oppressions practised on them and their families by some indigo-planters of the district, the foremost of whom is a sahib whose name is suppressed. The police is entirely under their influence, while it is difficult to seek redress in the law courts on account of the expense and trouble which must unavoidably be borne.

22. In an article on the want of polite behaviour in Government officials, the *Hindu Hitoishini*, of the 13th May, remarks that many Government officers, who are placed in high situations, do not know how to conduct themselves with common politeness towards the public, or those who are inferior to them in position. Fearing lest their politeness should be below their dignity, they lose all sense of it, and come to be unusually proud. We much regret to hear that the second Moonsiff of Dacca is a man of this class. The people are highly displeased with his conduct, and not less so with his administration of justice. Now, if he entertains the notion that he can only be considered a great man while he behaves unpolitely towards his inferiors, he ought to lay aside that impression very soon. He should remember that proud men cannot retain their position long. In the impartial eye of the Government, they must soon fall and be duly punished.

HINDU HITOISHINI,
May 13th, 1876.

23. Adverting to the assumption of the title of "Empress" by the Queen, the same paper observes that the people of India have raised no objection, while the English have made vehement complaints against it. After various discussions, it has been determined that this title should be used only with reference to India, whereas in England it shall have no force. Now, is it not a matter of disgrace to the people of India that the title should be used only here and not in England? What is the cause of this enmity of England to India—a country from which it has derived very great benefit? However, we are not reluctant to call the Queen by this new title. We are rather glad that she is going to assume it, though we do not yet anticipate of what avail it will be to us. We cannot say what advantage we have derived from the transfer of the Government of India from the hands of the Company to those of the Queen. Some hopes have been offered to us this time by Mr. Disraeli, though we did not ask anything in return; nor do we not know of what nature those hopes are. We expect nothing more than to have a regular supply of food, and this is all we ask for.

HINDU HITOISHINI.

24. The same paper, writing on the removal of the Post Office from Dacca to Furrusgunge, says that this measure will cause great inconvenience and trouble to the inhabitants of the city. The office ought to be in its present site, as that is the only one there. Its removal will no doubt answer the interests of one person only, the Post Master; but it will be a source of immense inconvenience to many. Besides, it will entail a great expense on the Government to build a new house and purchase new lands.

HINDU HITOISHINI.

25. In an unusually long article, the same paper makes the following observations:—Many Englishmen come to India very poor, and go home having amassed large fortunes derived from Indian soil. Still they are not grateful. The Editors of Anglo-Indian papers especially, are very ungrateful to India, whence they derive so much benefit. They diligently continue to vilify and put down the natives of the land by means of their writings. The *Englishman* particularly endeavours to induce the Government to gag the Native Press, which is the only instrument the natives have to give expression to their bitter feelings, arising from oppression, injustice, and

HINDU HITOISHINI.

numerous other grievances. The contemporary referred to is the greatest enemy of the Native Papers, and thinks it his special duty to censure and check them, and even deprive them of their freedom, ignorant all the while that itself was formerly no better than a mere imitator of the papers published in England, and that our freedom was secured to us by one of his own countrymen, who was no other than the illustrious Sir C. Metcalfe. Now, notwithstanding these attacks, we are confident that the Government will not be disposed to deprive us of our liberty; for, if this were done, we should no longer be able to point out our grievances to our rulers, or to seek redress. Our sole object is to promote the welfare of our country; and this also is the object of our rulers. Moreover, if the Government entertain at all the idea of depriving us of our liberty, it should, in the first instance, stop the English papers; for after all the Native papers simply imitate their tone and style. Lord Lytton, who is well known as a true friend of letters, will doubtless take all this into due and kind consideration.

SOMA PRAKASH.
May 15th, 1876.

26. In reference to the letter of a correspondent, complaining of the inconvenience and insults, to which the respectable women of Kidderpore are subjected, when they go to perform their ablutions, the *Soma Prakash*, of the 15th May, remarks that, when this matter was brought to the notice of the Police Inspector, he said that the police could not interfere. We do not, however, understand this. If it be thought necessary to appoint a constable for the purpose of checking such conduct, he should be appointed, and the expense be defrayed from the Municipal Fund. Why should the people of Kidderpore pay their taxes, if the dignity and honor of their women are not to be respected?

SOMA PRAKASH.

27. Adverting to the subject of constructing a new road from Baharu to the banks of a small river, called Peali, in the Sunderbuns, the same paper says that it will be no advantage to any but to the few proprietors of Mahishmari, and of one or two lots of land adjoining it; and suggests that, instead of constructing that road, the Government might do well to undertake the repairs of two others, namely, that extending from Calcutta to Bistupore on the south, and an old and worn out road from the bazar of Mybibee to lot No. 22. The former would not cost much more than Rs. 5,000; and the latter, which is called the Dari Jangal road, not more than some six or seven thousand rupees. Moreover these two roads would prove to be a true benefit to the inhabitants of the Sunderbuns, and promote their convenience; whereas the Mahishmari road would do them no good. But in the latter, Baboo Degamber Mitter has his own interests. If the Government regard his interest to the neglect of others, and regardless of their real wants, expend Rs. 20,000 for what would be no advantage to them, we are helpless, and have no remedy. Only we hope, now that the whole state of the matter is before them, they will not act so.

SOMA PRAKASH.

28. In reference to the oppressions committed by the police officers, the same paper observes that they are the most fitting servants of the Government. They bind a man when they are only required to arrest him. No sooner had the Lieutenant-Governor said, that he thought there were still many prostitutes, who had concealed themselves about the town, and that this might be the reason that contagious diseases did not decrease, than these officers discovered and determined to seize respectable, but helpless, innocent women, instead of regular prostitutes. A case of the above description has lately occurred in Calcutta, and its result is known to everybody. The

police is as active in committing oppression, as it is able in collecting evidences against innocent persons. We hear that it is devising schemes of a like nature against some innocent lads of the Hare School, not being able, of course, to find out those who were really guilty in the late affray.

29. A correspondent of the same paper says, we are very glad to learn that a branch railway line is to be opened from Ranaghat, passing through Santipur. If it had been extended two miles further, it might pass through the opposite side of Culnah and prove a material benefit to the trade of Culnahgunge. It is the misfortune of the residents of that town that the report of the Collector of Hooghly has not secured the favorable notice of Government.

SOMA PRAKASH,
May 15th, 1876.

30. In an article on Sir Richard Temple's Minute on the Rent Law, the *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 14th May, says, since there is no difference in the rates of rent paid by the occupancy and the non-occupancy tenants in Eastern Bengal, the Lieutenant-Governor's rules as to the non-enhancement of rent, when paid according to the prescribed rates, can scarcely be introduced. We do not know whether it be Sir Richard Temple's object to include *Bargait* tenants among non-occupancy ryots. If it be so, their rents might be enhanced, in accordance with the difference between what is paid by them as the price of the produce, and the fixed rents paid by the occupancy ryots. But we cannot say if this rule can be equally applicable in every place. If the occupancy ryots pay a higher rate of rent than the non-occupancy ryots, whose rent is ascertained according to the value of the produce, instead of increasing the rent, it should be reduced in every place. It is needless to say that this measure would be extremely unjust and inconsistent. We rather think the Lieutenant-Governor's idea was that the rent might be increased, where it could be, according to the rule; but it should by no means be less, in any place, than the ascertained rate. This ought to have been clearly stated. But if instead of classifying the occupancy ryots, and making complex calculations to ascertain the rates of rent payable by them, the Lieutenant-Governor had put them into one class, and had laid down clear rules, it would have been productive of very good results. If only one rate had been fixed for all classes of the occupancy ryots, there would have been no more disputes.

DACCA PRAKASH,
May 14th, 1876.

31. In the opening article on the introduction of the new Municipal Bill into the Mofussil, the *Sahachar*, of the 15th May, makes the following observations:—Though in other respects the views of our rulers may differ, yet as regards the art of government their opinions are always found to be invariably the same. In the above Bill, Sir Richard Temple has merely followed the footsteps of his predecessor, Sir George Campbell; in whose time a similar Bill was framed, but was vetoed by Lord Northbrook, on account of the numerous complaints raised from various quarters against its introduction. Sir Richard, however, has had it quietly passed through the Bengal Council, which had then other important matters to attend to, and consequently could not devote sufficient time to examine it critically and minutely. Hence many of the faults of the former Bill are also to be met with in this. We are, however, glad to hear that a representation has been made against it to the Governor-General by the British Indian Association. We hope that Lord Lytton will reject the Bill; for, if passed into law, it will undoubtedly prove a source of incalculable misery to the people. It is extremely unjust that a major portion of the Municipal Fund should be appropriated for the police. Nay, Sir Richard does not stop

SAHACHAR,
May 15th, 1876.

here; he has also provided that some portion of it should be paid to the Magistrate and the Commissioners to defray a part of the expenses of their office, in return for the services to be rendered by them to the Municipality. Again, local Governments are unadvisedly empowered to devise new systems of taxation at their pleasure. The road cess has been introduced, and from this fund streets are to be paved and repaired; while the levying of toll will continue to exist in full force. Our rulers do not understand that to levy toll is to hinder trade.

URDU GUIDE,
May 13th, 1876.

32. An anonymous correspondent writes to the *Urdu Guide* from Dacca, under date the 8th May, as follows:—Cholera, and fever of a typhoid type, are raging in the environs, but more specially in the north and east parts, where two or four people daily fall victims to these dire diseases. The import of grain is greatly impeded by the prevailing storms during this season of the year; good rice is selling at 16 seers, and coarse at 17 and 18 seers per rupee. *Solághar*, in *Bikrámpore*, is infested with tigers, by whose attacks many men have been wounded, and one man died the other day; goats and oxen are also killed.

Moonshee Mahammad Yusuf, late Record-keeper of the Judge's Court here, who was dismissed for the stamp forgery case, has betaken himself to the shrine of *Sháh Jálál Dakhini*, situated in the old lines, where he has proclaimed himself to be a *Darvésh*, and has attracted a great number of prostitutes and Hindus of the weaver caste as his disciples. He proclaims that God's kingdom on earth has become spoiled, in consequence of which many troubles have arisen, and that he has been appointed to rid the world of these, for which purpose he has caused a shoe to be manufactured, one cubit and a half in length, with which he orders all those who come to him afflicted with diseases to be beaten. His trusty followers and disciples assert that dropsical swellings and rheumatism are effectually cured thereby. He is known by the cognomen of *Bábá Sáhib* among the prostitutes, which class constitutes by far the greatest portion of those who come to visit and make offerings to him. He is a very experienced man, by reason of his having long served in courts: he was at first Názir of the Principal Sudder Ameer's Court, and then a Record-keeper of the Judge's Court. It is always to be found that a man long accustomed to work finds idleness unsupportable when he chances to lose his situation, and therefore creates something for himself to do.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 20th May 1876.

JOHN ROBINSON,

Government Bengali Translator.

*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the
20th May 1876.*

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Sáptáhhik Samáchar" ...	Calcutta ...	Weekly ...	9th May 1876.
2	"Suhrid" ...	Muktágáchá, Mymensing	Ditto ...	9th ditto.
3	"Hindu Ranjiká" ...	Bauleah, Rájshahye ...	Ditto ...	10th ditto.
4	"Amrita Bazar Patriká" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	11th ditto.
5	"Bhárat Mihir" ...	Mymensing ...	Ditto ...	11th ditto.
6	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	Ditto ...	12th ditto.
7	"Pratikár" ...	Berhampore ...	Ditto ...	12th ditto.
8	"Moorshedabad Pratinidhi" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	12th ditto.
9	"Grámbártá Prákáshiká" ...	Comercolly ...	Ditto ...	13th ditto.
10	"Hindu Hitoishini" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	13th ditto.
11	"Dacca Prákásh" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	14th ditto.
12	"Soma Prákásh" ...	Bhowanipore ...	Ditto ...	15th ditto.
13	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	15th ditto.
14	"Sulabha Samáchar" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	16th ditto.
15	"Samáchar Chandriká" ...	Ditto ...	Bi-Weekly ...	18th ditto.
16	"Sambád Prabhákar" ...	Ditto ...	Daily ...	12th to 18th May 1876.
17	"Sambád Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	13th to 17th ditto.
18	"Banga Vidyá Prákáshiká" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	15th and 16th ditto.
19	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu) ...	Ditto ...	Weekly ...	13th May 1876.
20	"Jám-Jehán-numá" (in Persian) ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	19th ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.

